

**SNAP!**

Safe Neighborhood Awareness Program

**SPECIAL POINTS  
OF INTEREST:****SNAP Home Alone  
Safety****Force Protection  
Tip of the Month****SNAP Safety Cam-  
paign Geared To-  
ward Teens****Message from the  
Provost Marshal****SNAP Safety Hot-  
line**

# August 2004

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 6

AUGUST 2004

## SNAP Safety for Children Who are Home Alone



Each day millions of children go to an empty home and are alone for an hour or more.

There are a number of important points parents should consider prior to allowing their child to be unsupervised after school. Parents need to assess their child. Does he or she have the personality, self confidence, and judgment skills to accept this responsibility? Will the experience be positive and help build and enhance the child's self-image, or will the experience promote additional anxiety in the child who may be afraid to stay home alone? Having a family conference to discuss the arrangement is a good place to start. House rules, expectations of both parent and child and a daily routine can be defined. At the end of the day, parents can also use the experience to have regular family meetings to help ensure that the arrangement is still working and identify any alterations that need to be made. Here are some steps that you and your children can take to help ensure a positive after-school experience.

***Before allowing your child to go home alone, you should....***

Determine if there are other community resources or organizations providing after-school care or support.

Ask your child how he or she feels about being alone. Is your child afraid to be left alone, or does he or she have the maturity and initiative to want to assume that responsibility?

Decide if you feel that your child can follow directions and solve problems on his or her own.

Determine how long your child will be alone, how accessible you or another trusted adult will be in case of an emergency,

and how safe the neighborhood is by contacting your local law enforcement agency and checking the incidence of crime in your neighborhood.

Make sure you've set specific rules that are to be followed by your child while he or she is alone and give your child specific instructions on how to reach you at all times. This should also include information on what to do if your child needs assistance and can't reach you right away.

Remember that you're in charge even if it is from a distance.

***Once you've decided to proceed, you should check to make sure your child knows...***

His or her full name, address and telephone number.

Your full name, your work phone number and any pager or cellular telephone numbers that you may have.

How to make a telephone call to request help in an emergency using 100/101.

How to carry his or her key so that it is hidden and secure.

What to do if he or she is being followed.

Always check out the house before entering: looking for doors that may be ajar, windows that may be broken, or anything that doesn't look right.

Always lock the door after entering and make sure that the house is secure.

Immediately check in with you upon returning home to let you know that he or she has arrived safely.



**“Teenagers are  
the most  
victimized segment  
of the U.S.  
population”**

## Force Protection Tip of the Month

It seems that every newsletter I talk about anti-terrorism/force protection in the residential environment but if you think about it we spend a lot of time at the house so we should apply some thought on how to make it a safer environment for our families. One way to deter a would-be intruder is to install an alarm. It doesn't have to be the type of intrusion alarm

that you are thinking, try for instance a dog. Trained and obedient dogs can make very good intrusion alarms and are a good deterrent to a criminal. Dogs can smell an intruder from excess of 250 yards away and their hearing is unmatched. They can alert you of a threat well before you would notice yourself. The best thing about dogs is they can go with

you almost anywhere you go in Belgium.

For more information on Anti-Terrorism/Force Protection tips from SSG Angel, please feel free to contact the Chievres MP Station at 068-27-5301.

## SNAP Safety Campaign Geared towards Teens

Parents and teachers are often surprised to learn that young children are not the most common victims of abduction and sexual assault. Ernie Allen, president of the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC), puts it this way. “Because cases of victimization of young children receive such high visibility in the news media, there is a public perception that little kids are victimized the most often. In fact, teenagers are the most victimized segment of the U.S. population.” According to Allen, most educational efforts to date have been geared to this younger age range, and yet according to the U.S. Department of Justice research, teenagers and girls are among the most victims of sexual attacks.

SNAP has developed simple safety rules that are as simple as

learning to look both ways before crossing the street. These rules are common-sense rules that most children have heard a million times from their parents, but may think that they only apply to little kids. This campaign is designed to drive these messages home in a new way to teens who may think they are capable of taking care of themselves, and who want and are given more independence from their parents - - all factors which combine to actually help make this age group more vulnerable towards abduction, assault, etc.

### **Why are teenagers so vulnerable?**

Many are fearless, with a sense of immortality.

Many are highly mobile and come into contact with many people each

day.

Many are potential sexual targets for adult exploiters due to youth and vitality.

Many are experiencing common problems to teens such as working through emotional issues with friends and family and can be easy targets for those who prey on children.

Many consider themselves too smart, too big to be victims. The reality is that they lack the awareness, knowledge, and savvy necessary to stay safe.

As common sense as the rules are, if conveyed without preaching or by ultimatum they can empower teens and help them to feel less vulnerable in risky situations.

Cont. page 3

# SNAP Safety Campaign Geared towards Teens



## Know the Rules!

**Never go alone - - consciously plan ahead to take a friend.**

**Always tell an adult where you are going.**

**Say no if you feel threatened and then tell an adult you trust.**

**Avoid situations or places that make you feel uncomfortable or confused**

## What to Do if that Trusted adult is you!

Treat the teen sensitively and listen closely, without judgment, to what he or she has

to say.

Respect the privacy of the teen who has trusted you with this important information. Repeat it to no one except the necessary individuals within the authorities ( Military Police, etc. )

Remember that this teen chose you as a trusted adult, and had the courage to come to you, confident that you will act on his or her behalf. Along with this comes tremendous sense of responsibility, so be as responsive as possible. Follow-up with the proper authorities and the student to ensure help is received. And remember - - it is complement to you as an adult that a teen

respects and trusts you enough to come to you for help.

SNAP safety campaign is designed to help the most important segments of our 80th ASG population, your children! For more information on SNAP programs offered or on our Safety Campaign initiative, please contact your SNAP Program Coordinator at 068-27-6143/361-6143 or by email at SNAP@benelux.army.mil.

Help SNAP make the 80th ASG community a safer place for our children!

## The Statistics are Startling:

12-15 year olds are victimized at a rate of 84 percent higher than the general population

61% of all rape victims are younger than 18, and 32 % are 11-17

*\*Statistics provided by U.S. Department of Justice Bureau of Justice Statistics Sourcebook of*

**"You've passed on information that has helped both civil and military...in gathering information ..."**



## Message from the Provost Marshal

I want to personally thank you for the community's efforts to prevent crime in our neighborhoods and commune. You've passed on information that has helped both civil and military law enforcement and intelligence units in gathering information on potential criminal activity and targets.

Most of the reports are very descriptive and helpful. However, some of the reports are vague in nature. An example of such is, "A green van is parked across the street from Chievers

and someone is photographing the base".

To better help us, please provide as much detail as possible when reporting. Using the example above, a more descriptive report would state, "A green Ford Aerostar, Belgian license plate, 000-XXX, is on Rue d'Ath, across from the barracks area. A dark skinned, man wearing blue jeans and an orange shirt was photographing inside the fence line about 15 minutes ago".

### Try to include the following in your reports:

- ! Vehicle make & model
- ! Vehicle color and murals
- ! License plate number & country
- ! Number & description of Subjects
- ! Description of suspicious activity
- ! Language/speech of subject

Again, you've done a great job in reporting and keeping an eye out for our community. Please keep up the good work!





## 80th Area Support Group

**Interested in Volunteering ???**

**Contact your SNAP Office:**

Phone: 068-27-6143

DSN: 361-6143

Fax: 068-27-5969

SNAP@benelux.army.mil

The Safe Neighborhood Awareness Program is here to serve the 80th ASG SHAPE/CHIEVRES Community. And to better serve our soldiers and their families we have designed a new Newsletter that will be available monthly and will provide helpful safety tips, an informative message from the Force Protection Division of the Office of the Provost Marshal, along with a Special Message from the Provost Marshal.

SNAP is actively seeking volunteers to help plan our annual "National Night Out" celebration. If you are interested in volunteering please contact your SNAP Coordinator!

**Making Neighborhoods Safer is a SNAP!**

[www.80asg.army.mil](http://www.80asg.army.mil)  
Link to SNAP

## SNAP Introduces Safety Automated Hotline 068-27-6300

Are you interested in helping your community to stay safe? Become the Provost Marshal Offices eyes and ears by reporting suspicious activity to the SNAP Safety Hotline. This hotline is a new initiative by SNAP that allows you to remain anonymous to our automated system.

A Safe Neighborhood Starts with Safe Soldiers, Safe Adults and Safe Kids! Help SNAP in our quest to combat

crime and terrorism in our communities. This hotline is only for non-emergency issues. If you have an emergency please contact the Chievres MP Emergency Line at 068-27-5114.



**Making Neighborhoods Safer is a SNAP!**

